

Fotheringham, John Taylor

Oct 1915 - June 1916
(21)

October 10th, 1915

Colonel Fotheringham,

England.

My dear Colonel Fotheringham:

I have to thank you very much for several letters together with most interesting pamphlets and clippings of newspapers. These I have read with much interest. They serve to show once more how just our cause is.

By this time you will be somewhere in France and probably pretty busy. If we are correct in our surmise the great drive will soon be on and you will have your hands full.

I had a letter from Professor Primrose yesterday setting forth conditions in the University Hospital at Shorncliffe. Perhaps by this time also they will be in France. It has been a long and weary wait, but men who undertake military duties must undergo the discipline of patience.

We have begun the session again with reduced numbers, I am glad to say, and an increased number of women. It would not have looked well had we had as large numbers of men as last year. Already we have about 1200 graduates and undergraduates at the front. I am sure also that the C.T.C. will be in better shape this year than last, and that by the spring many of them will be ready to go. It is an awful business this urging men to give their lives, but what else can we do. I hope that the tide has turned and that the ascendancy after this is ours.

I got a glimpse of your daughter at Go Home Bay when I was up there for a day at the end of August, but I have not seen Mrs. Fotheringham since I got back. I hope that things are moving well with you.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

June 5th, 1916

Colonel J. T. Fotheringham, C.M.G.,

Headquarters, 2nd Canadian Division,

British Expeditionary Force, France.

My dear Colonel Fotheringham:

I was very glad to hear on Saturday that you had been given the C.M.G. for your services in the army. Your many friends in Toronto will rejoice at this recognition. I hope that you will have many of health and happiness in which to enjoy it. I was also glad to know that Colonel Mitchell got the D.S.O.

This morning however a gloom was cast upon us by the word that has come of the heavy action in which our Canadians were engaged. As you will know there has been a heavy casualty list of the Toronto officers. The wounding of Generals Mercer and Williams is especially serious, as I have always understood they were both very competent commanders. However, this is the luck of war.

Our anxiety over the sea fight has been removed and we are now glad to know that it was rather a victory for our side than a defeat and that the mastery of Britain over the seas is greater than ever.

We have closed the year three weeks earlier than usual, but as you know the fourth and fifth year medical students are continuing their studies.

I met your daughter on the street the other day and asked her to send you my kind regards. To-night I leave for

the Assembly at Winnipeg and now I must close.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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Dec. 5- 1915

My dear S. Fallowell.

The weariness of Xmas prompts me again to stop a line, to wish you & Jane as merry a Xmas as may be, and all of us, & of Christendom, a happier New Year than the dying one has been. How the German Emperor can enjoy his Xmas is a problem; the best we can wish him is that he be left alone with his own thoughts. And we shall do our best to give him the very worst New Year of his life.

We are having steady rain fog & wind, but just now the sun is shining in our bay in a path with no alloy of gray. I never could understand how any experiences of Canadian winters

why Horace's word for winter ["nox
hervit Bruma iners] meant indef-
initely fog, hoar-frost, & winter.
But I quite understand now, &
can see why Caesar dodged the
meteorological vicissitudes of this
dreinal country when campaigning
here, by going back to Italy & leaving
Labienus et al to carry on.

We are doing very well. We have
lost about 1000 men, but casualties
just now are very light. It is calculated
to cause depression at times (be can-
stant in the midst of "battle, murder,
& sudden death"; but 99% of all ranks
are incurably cheerful & courageous.

My best feelings & love to Mrs
Falconer, & good wishes to your young people.
& of course to yourself. Very sincerely yours.
S. J. Folgerham.



2nd. Cdn. Div. Hq.
June 22nd. 1916.

President -
University of Toronto.

My Dear Dr. Falconer -

Your kind letter of congratulations is very welcome. While of course much pleased at my good fortune, it should be clearly understood that I owe it to the efficiency and loyalty of my three Field Ambulances and to the medical officers with the writs of the Division, many of whom are my own old students and who, with practically no exception, are beyond praise.

You know more of our condition and progress and prospects by other channels than we are allowed to tell you. I can at least say that there is no discouragement in spite of heavy losses and more hard fighting probably still to come. We think it not unlikely that the next three months may see decided progress in the pulverizing of the Central Powers, which is the only way towards peace.

My very kind regards to Mrs. Falconer
and the children, and my best wishes
to the University.

Yours very sincerely,

P. Falconer

